

NCTE GENERAL MEETING  
Friday, March 12, 2010  
Omaha Room, Country Inn and Suites  
Lincoln, NE

**President Erickson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.**

**Present:** M. Towey-Schulz, S. Brown, C. Rice, S. Alford, L. Barnett, S. Bartholomew, T. Bayne, A. Bone, A. Gay, L. Forester, B. Habrock, B. Hastings, T. Heese, J. Kupper, M. O'Holleran, D. Vitosh, B. Schnabel, F. Marymee, K. Rempp, A. Adkins, M. Adler, J. Allison, J. Beach, M. Blakeman, R. Bork, D. Casey, M. Coe, W. Erickson, S. Jensen, S. Katt, K. Rohwer, M. Schlieder, B. Schweiger, S. Stake, K. Wheeler, D. Jankovich, P. Blundell, S. Ishii-Jordan, T. Coe, C. Linster, L. Mihm, D. Moss, N. Carol Olsen, K. Peters, K. Ryan, E. Scantling, N. Bateman, T. Wandzilak

**Guests:** K. Fuchser, D. Phelps, M. Harouff, P. Etherton, P. Rippe, A. Arth, J. Walter, P. Spethman, N. Schnoor, J. Sears, R. Hiatt, L. Danielson, D. Lotspeich, M. Beiermann, K. Buller

**Absent without alternate replacement:** P. Bohn, M. Luedtke-Taylor, L. Moeller, A. Auten, D. Bird, M. Hardy, F. Helmink, T. Von Essen

**Declaration of legal meeting by President Erickson**

**Public Comments: None**

**Approval of the October 9, 2009 NCTE Meeting Minutes:** Beach moved for approval of the June 2009 NCTE meeting minutes. Seconded by Adler. The minutes were approved.

**Executive Committee Minutes** from the January 26, 2010 meeting were reviewed by Erickson.

Erickson introduced Dr. Roger Breed (Commissioner), Robert Evnen, and Joe Higgins, representatives from the State Board of Education, for comments.

**Comments from Dr. Breed:**

Dr. Breed expressed support and thanks to the NCTE membership for their dedication and the work they do in education.

Dr. Breed provided an overview of Nebraska Department of Education goals and initiatives including:

- Focus on Effective Instruction & Student Learning
- NE P-16 Effort – This effort emphasizes the need for schools to focus on high school graduation requirements, eliminate academic achievement gaps, implement a longitudinal data system, increased graduation rate of 90% or higher, the college going rate of students increase, affordable college access and college completion, and increase STEM teachers/capability
- NeSA – Nebraska Statewide Assessment
- Standards Update – Reading and Math are approved; Science is underway. The Nebraska standards match well with the Common Core Standards.

- Federal Vision: Improve student achievement, narrow achievement gaps, and increase graduation and college enrollment rates.
- American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding is available through these competitive grants:
  - SFSF
  - Race To the Top
  - SIG
  - i3
  - Ed Tech
  - TIF
  - SLDS

Race To The Top Grants: Concentration will be in these areas:

- standards and assessments;
- struggling schools;
- data systems; and
- excellent teaching & leadership.

The ultimate goal of these grants is to have a great teacher for every classroom and excellent administration.

Nebraska's Race to the Top Proposal: Purpose is to create a statewide system to support school districts in closing the achievement gaps while increasing overall student achievement, improving graduation rates, and increasing college enrollment rates.

Teacher Preparation Implications: Teachers and Principals will need support with standards, data, assessment, and instruction; tracking of students will be done as they progress from PreK-16 on into the workforce; collaboration with school districts will be necessary to provide mentoring/induction support; and improvement of STEM capability K-12 will be needed.

Nebraska's Race to the Top application wasn't approved, but Nebraska will reapply in June, 2010.

#### **Comments from Bob Evnen:**

Mr. Evnen expressed his appreciation for the service by NCTE. The Board of Education was pleased with the work done on the Reading, Writing and Math standards and the work currently being done on the NeSA assessments.

Mr. Evnen expressed concern with Nebraska Teacher Preparation programs. He stated that graduates of Nebraska teacher preparation programs are not well-prepared in the areas of Math and Reading. He cited from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) report that indicated Nebraska received a very low score (D-) on teacher preparation. A major reason for this low score comes from not holding the state teacher education programs accountable. He suggested that Nebraska should develop

an alternative method of preparing teachers other than through teacher colleges. He questioned how we are going to prepare teachers properly.

**Comments from Joe Higgins:**

The State Board will be working with Rules 20, 21, 23, and 24. How will the role of teacher preparation be changed as we review and revise these Rules? He asked for help from the NCTE membership to determine specifics and recommendations concerning teacher preparation programs. Jankovich questioned the Race To The Top requirements concerning publicly rating teachers and how this will be done, especially on the NDE website. The answer was that it will be done without individually identifying teachers. Mr. Higgins stated that there must be a process to determine how to gather the necessary information and then effectively replace the ineffective teachers with high-performing teachers. Ishii-Jordan questioned the variables on data gathering—how will it affect teachers going into poor performing schools? Will there be national or statewide teacher evaluation models that Nebraska teachers will have to use, as test scores will play a huge part in the evaluation models? Beach questioned how principals in rural areas can compete with urban principals—that will be a challenge for Nebraska. Moss questioned the effect that money will play in this process—Evenen stated that tuition money/resources need to be deployed differently to get the best teacher preparation possible.

**NDE UPDATE:**

Rule 25 update: Katt reported that once the necessary statutory changes in the law were approved, it would allow the money to be better allocated for Rule 25 expenditure.

Ad Hoc Committees – Additional financial resources are now available through September 30 so we will try to do several ad hocs including School Guidance Counselor, Health, Health and PE, ESL and Bilingual, Library Media Specialist, and possibly Superintendent/Principal. Sign-up sheets are available.

State and Federal Initiatives: Katt reported that Rule 20 will be undergoing review.

Questions/issues that will impact Rule 20 and Race To The Top discussions include:

- How do we consider alternative pathways for teacher preparation?
- What do we believe are professional teacher standards for Nebraska?
- How do we get an equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals in the schools that need them the most?
- A focus on preparing teachers for high-need areas.

Rowher questioned the legislative process in the Race To The Top issue and other funding issues. Katt explained that now the money from grants will be coming on a more competitive basis with other states, so the monies may be more difficult to receive.

### **Other Discussion Items:**

Katt explained that the NCTE meeting scheduled for June 11, 2010 will be run in conjunction with a Folio Review for the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Union College, and York College. A variety of scheduling options for running the folio review and NCTE meetings was given for further review at the Standard Committee meetings. Katt asked for input on scheduling the NCTE meetings, specifically how can we make the meetings more efficient and cost effective?

Peters reported on Teacher Certification Update and Discussion Items including:

- Use of electronic filing for certificates
- Developing a paperless certificate system
- Reciprocity issue concerning a 2-year teaching requirement for the School Counselor endorsement
- Visual Arts 5-9 endorsement level versus Art K-12 endorsement level
- Special Education Director – is this a viable option for schools?
- Social Science comprehensive endorsement should be emphasized rather than individual Social Studies areas (geography, history, etc.)
- New Endorsements on horizon: K-6 Reading/Writing or K-3 Specialists in Math or Reading; STEM endorsement; Urban Teaching endorsement; Native American Indian Studies
- Will have Career Education certificates and Dual Credit certificates available after approval by the governor.

Erickson reminded the membership before breaking for Standing Committee meetings that action items take a vote of the group--discussion items don't need a vote. Since there are many issues before the Standing Committees for discussion, the committees will have a working lunch.

First General Session adjourned at 11:45.

Second General session resumed at 1:45 p.m.

Schnabel explained the Partnership For Innovation (PFI) initiative. It is from Perkins funds. This is a teacher education career path which will give high school students the opportunity to think about becoming teachers while they are still in high school. It will include 3 courses offered at the high school level, and it will be implemented the fall of 2011.

Katt explained that NCATE training will not happen this summer due to financial issues and also because NCATE is redefining itself at this time, so it would be prudent to wait until NCATE has clarified their position.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Certification Committee: Mark Adler is the new chair, Keith Rowher is the new vice-chair, and Diana Casey is the new secretary. They would like to have the UNK, Union College and York College folio review on Thursday, June 10, and the NCTE meeting held on Friday, June 11. The group would like to determine what the 'real' teacher preparation program issues are vs. the

'perceived' issues when considering teacher preparation program changes, as well as more input on Race to the Top (RTTT) initiatives.

Graduate Committee: Will keep the same officers: Doreen Jankovich, chair, Don King, vice-chair, and Sharon Ishii-Jordan as secretary. In an effort to trim meeting costs, the group would like to use more technology options and carpooling. The group also stressed that Rule 20 considerations must be discussed and acted upon.

Undergraduate Committee: The new chair is Alan Bone, new vice-chair is Lyn Forester, and Sue Alford is the new secretary. The group stated that there is a need to look at the entire professional development landscape from indoctrination through the veteran teacher. This discussion led to these questions/ideas:

- Is there a role for the ESUs?
- Who is responsible for early professional development activities? Can these be a cooperative venture between higher education institutions and school districts?
- Should we consider regional systems to offer professional development?
- What professional development systems are already in place in our state?

The group agreed that we should try to cut meeting expenses and will work to keep costs down. Teacher certification issues were discussed—there is a need to be specific with the School Counselor endorsement and determining what the counselors' work really should be. There needs to be consistency with reciprocity among certificate applicants from out-of-state.

Other Items:

Katt stated the June 11, 2010 meeting will probably have a revised Rule 20 draft for members to review.

Erickson thanked the membership for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.